

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These Remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2004. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-12 for at least the following reasons.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the present application.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,546,486 to Perlman et al. (hereinafter "Perlman").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and respectfully submit that the rejections are improper for failing to disclose or suggest each feature recited in Applicants' claims. For example, as recited in claim 1, Applicants' claimed method comprises the steps of a firewall "exchanging a second encryption key with the host device when the exchange of the first encryption key is detected ..." and then, "requesting, based at least in part upon the second security policy, the first encryption key ..." from the host device. At least these features are not disclosed or suggested by Perlman.

In contrast, Perlman discloses a method in which a remote device (102) sends an encrypted message (208), with a first key (306) through a firewall (106) to a host device (110). The first key (306) is decrypted by the firewall (106) and then sent to host (110) to decrypt the second key (204) and return it to the firewall (106). See, col. 5, lines 54-61. Thus, Perlman does not exchange a second key with the host device, as claimed by Applicants. Instead, the first key is received by the firewall, decrypted, and then sent to the host. Likewise, Perlman does not disclose or suggest requesting the first key from the host. Instead, Perlman discloses that the first key is provided by the

source to the firewall. See, col. 5, lines 55-61 and Fig. 3. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 10-11 are improper and request that they be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 6, 8 and 12 depend from one of claims 1, 7 or 11 and, thus, contain the features recited therein. As discussed above, Perlman fails to disclose or suggest each feature recited in the independent claims. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 2, 6, 8 and 12 are also improper and respectfully request that they be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Perlman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,612 to Ylonen et al. (hereinafter "Ylonen"). Claims 3 and 9 depend from claims 1 and 7 respectively and, as such, contain the features recited in the independent claims. Ylonen is relied upon to disclose the use of IKE protocols and, as such, fails to repair the above detailed deficiencies of Perlman. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 3 and 9 are improper and request that they be withdrawn.

I. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

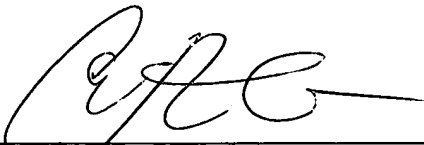
No fee is believed necessary in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if it is determined otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any difference to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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